

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

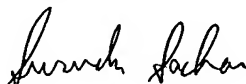
The present application is a divisional of co-pending parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/459,574, filed December 13, 1999. In that parent application, a restriction requirement was set forth.

Claim 17 is pending in the present application. Claims 1-16 and 18-27 are canceled by the present amendment.

Accordingly, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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